

REMARKS

Claims 1 has been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 17-21 have been added. Thus, Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are currently pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

On the merits, claims 1-4 and 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ruff. Applicants maintains their position as stated in the last response to office action. However, to further prosecution, Applicants amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of former dependent claim 5. The Examiner indicated that such a combination would be allowable. In addition, Applicants added new independent claims 17 and 21. Independent claim 17 as well as independent method claim 21 include similar limitations as former claims 1 and 5 and should therefore also be allowable.

The dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims and are therefore patentable at least to the extent of the independent claims.

Summary

In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested. It is further submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the agent of record by telephone or facsimile.

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Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*) Order Number 074313.0106.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Limited recognition 37 C.F.R. §10.9)
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